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Conservation Notes

Current topics and issues affecting hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation in our North Dakota.

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Game and Fish Department Budget

The Department's budget has always been comprised of revenue from hunting and fishing licenses, and federal excise taxes based on the sale of sporting goods. The Department does not receive any money from the state's general fund. Game and Fish Department programs provide habitat for fish and wildlife, access for hunters and anglers, and other programs which result in billions of dollars to lodges, restaurants, gas stations, bars, and other small-town businesses.

But the need for funding has surpassed the amount of funding available to effectively deliver Department programs. If more money is made available, then the Department can significantly improve programs such as PLOTS, land purchases, access to land locked tracts, ice fishing access, habitat enhancements, etc., along with many other important programs benefiting our state's outdoor recreation economy.

Therefore, the 2021 legislation should support a strong, robust Game and Fish budget and provide general fund monies to the Department's budget. General fund money will greatly improve the programs that benefit our citizens and local economies.

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For more information on this message or other conservation topics, contact: John Bradley, Executive Director, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, (jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com), Mike McEnroe, Past President, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, (mecenroe@midco.net) or Rick Nelson, Past President, North Dakota Chapter, The Wildlife Society, (bluebill@bis.midco.net). For a complete list of Conservation Notes visit (www.ndctws.wordpress.com)-articles.